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(54) **Disposable absorbent article.**

(57) A disposable article (12) is provided that has a waistband (38) at one end that can be fastened about the waist of a wearer that is standing up. The portion of the article (12) hanging downwardly from the waistband (38) is then passed between the legs and attached at the back of the wearer. Stretchable leg cuffs (16) are provided at least at the crotch area (22) of the article (12) and extend laterally outwardly beyond the lateral sides of the article.

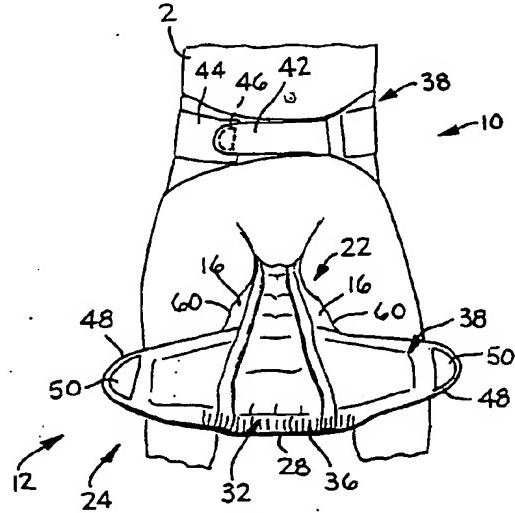


FIG. 5

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5)		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim			
X	US-A-4 568 341 (J.G.MITCHELL ET AL.)	1-5, 7-10,17, 26, 29-30, 32-33,40	A61F13/15		
Y	* figures 1-2 *	6,11-12, 15-16, 34-36,41			
A	* column 5, line 58 - line 67 * * column 12, line 18 - line 24 * * column 12, line 39 - line 43 * * column 33, line 34 - line 38 * ---	25			
X	DE-A-1 491 234 (T.SAIJO)	1-4, 7-10,17, 26,29, 32-33, 37,40			
A	* figures 1-3 * * page 4, line 16 - line 21 * * page 6, line 28 - line 31 * ---	23,25	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.5)		
X	US-A-4 988 346 (J.L.PFEFFERKORN) * abstract; figure 4 * * column 2, line 38 - line 44 * ---	20,24	A61F		
X	US-A-4 978 345 (C.S.HOLLIDAY AND D.A.HOLIDAY)	20-21, 23-24			
A	* column 2, line 11 - line 20 * * column 3, line 34 - line 57 * ---	25,40			
Y	FR-A-2 586 558 (BEGHIN-SAY)	11-12, 15-16			
	* figure 1 * * page 4, line 30 - line 37 * ---				
Y	EP-A-0 274 753 (KIMBERLY-CLARK)	6			
A	* column 7, line 16 - line 32 * ---	13,22,31			
		-/-			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
THE HAGUE	17 MAY 1993	NICE P.			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
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### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid.  
namely claims:
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions,  
namely:

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- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
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namely claims:
- None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.  
namely claims:



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
Y	EP-A-0 320 991 (KIMBERLY-CLARK) * column 4, line 8 - line 15 * * column 11, line 6 - line 9 * * column 12, line 8 - line 10 * * column 12, line 37 - line 40 * ---	34-36, 41	
A	US-A-3 860 003 (K.BUELL)  * figure 1 * * column 3, line 38 - line 53 * ---	1, 25-26, 37	
A	EP-A-0 391 476 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) * column 3, line 43 - line 44; figures 1, 3 *  -----	38-39, 42	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	17 MAY 1993	NICE P.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure F : intermediate document  & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION A PRIORI**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1-19, 26-34, 35-43 as dependent on 1-19 or 26-34:  
Disposable absorbent article with stretchable leg cuffs  
extending laterally beyond sides of articles
2. Claims 20-25, 35-43 as dependent on 20-25:  
Disposable absorbent article fastening at back of wearer

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